

Message Text

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SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATION ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 6477

SUMMARY: FINAL DAY OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE WERE MARKED BY PARTISAN OUTBURSTS AND REPETITION OF EARLIER THEMES BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION SPEAKERS. ACCUSATIONS AGAINST KIM TAE-CHUNG WERE FURTHER ELABORATED AND CABINET REPLIES STRESSED THE GRAVITY OF THESE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST KIM TAE-CHUNG WERE FURTHER ELABORATED AND CABINET REPLIES STRESSED THE GRAVITY OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, IF TRUE.

1. PARTISAN OUTBURSX BY OPPOSITION CAME TWICE AT THE OPENING OF FINAL DAY OF INTERPELLATIONS ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. RESPONDING TO EARLIER OPPOSITION DEMAND, SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON PERMITTED DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION PARTY ASSEMBLYMAN KIM KYONG-IN, WHO WAS PRESENT AT KIDNAPPING, TO MAKE A PERSONAL STATEMENT ABOUT THE INCIDENT. AFTER MEANDERING DSCRIPTION OF HIS REASON

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FOR GOING TO JAPAN, KIM THEN CRITICIZED INVESTIGATION

OF KIDNAPPING, AND ASKED WHETHER GOVT WAS INDEED UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE CULPRITS OR ONLY UNWILLING. HE QUESTIONED THE MOTIVE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS WHOSE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ACTIVITIES APPEARED AIMED AT JUSTIFYING THE KIDNAPPING. AT THIS POINT, ALLOTTED TEN MINUTES WAS UP AND MICROPHONE WENT DEAD. OPPOSITION MEMBERS JUMPED UP AND DEMANDED MORE TIME FOR KIM, BUT SPEAKER REFUSED.

2. SPEAKER THEN ANNOUNCED DELETION FROM THE RECORD OF "IMPROPER" REMARKS BY KIM YONG-SAM, MADE IN COURSE HIS SEPT. 24 INTERPELLATIONS. OFFENDING REMARKS WERE "IN KOREA WE HAVE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT POLITICS AND THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY". NDP SPOKESMAN CHOE MUN-SHIK RAISED A POINT OF ORDER, TO WHICH SPEAKER ANSWERED THAT KIM YONG-SAM HAD CONSENTED TO THE DELETION. AT THIS POINT, KIM YONG-SAM TOOK THE FLOOR AND ANNOUNCED HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND AND STOOD BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT. HE THEN REPEATED THE OFFENDING PHRASE FOR THE RECORD.

3. IN INTERPELLATIONS, PRO-GOVT SPEAKERS MIN PYONG-KI (DRP) AND YI TO-SON (RG) FOLLOWING SAME LINE AS THEIR PREDECESSORS, QUESTIONED RIGHT OF JAPANESE TO TALK ABOUT AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN VIEW OF PAST TREATMENT OF KOREA AND VOICED DARK SUSPICIONS ABOUT KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ACTIVITIES ABROAD. MIN QUOTED ALLEGED KIM IL-SONG COMMENT TO AUSTRALIAN WRITER WILFRED BURCHETTE THAT SOUTH KOREA NEEDED A NEW LEADER SUCH AS KIM TAE-CHUNG. YI CHARGED THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG'S KNOWN EXPENDITURES ABROAD CAME TO MORE THAN \$300,000 AND ASKED IF GOVT. HAD INVESTIGATED THE SOURCE OF HIS FUNDS.

4. IN HIS REPLY, PRIMIN KIM STATED THAT INVESTIGATION INTO KIM'S ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT BE LAUNCHED UNTIL INVESTIGATION OF KIDNAPPING WAS COMPLETED. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT VIEWED KIM IL-SONG'S REMARKS FAVORABLE TO KIM TAE-CHUNG WITH CONCERN. HE ADDED THAT IF KIM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAE-CHUNG HAD IN FACT SUPPORTED SOUTH-NORTH CONFEDERATION, WHICH PRIMIN DESCRIBED AT LENGTH AS A COMMUNIST SCHEME TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE PENINSULA, THEN KIM'S "DIFFICULTIES WILL BE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS". IN A SIMILAR VEIN, JUSTICE MINISTER SAID THAT IF KIM TAE-CHUNG HAD SPENT AS MUCH MONEY AS ALLEGED THIS WOULD BE A GRAVE MATTER.

5. OPPOSITION QUESTIONER KIM SU-HAN YONG-SAM (REFTEL). HE POINTED TO PAST ACTS OF TERRORISM ATTRIBUTED TO UNKNOWN GROUPS WITH SUCH NAMES AS "PATRIOTS", "NATION-SAVERS", ETC. HE ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVESTIGATING THE KOREAN DIPLOMATS WHO HAD LEFT JAPAN AND WERE NOT SLATED TO RETURN. KIM CONCLUDED BY POINTING OUT THAT JAPANESE WERE SENDING NO MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE TO ROK ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY OCTOBER 1 AND ASKED IF THIS DIDN'T REFLECT STRAIN I KOREA-JAPAN RELATONS.

6. VICE FOREIGNMINISTER YUN SOK-HON REPLIED THAT JAPANESE HAD ALWAYS BEEN RELUCTANT TO SEND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES TO THIS EVENT. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT KIDNAPPING MIGHT HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR RELUCTANCE. HE THEN ASSURED THAT BASIC FRIEDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES REMAIN UNCHANGED.

7. NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT REPORTED PARLIAMENTARY OUTBURSTS (PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE). HOWEVER TONGA ILBO DID CAREFULLY NOTE SPEAKER'S DELETION OF KIM YONG-SAM PASSAGE AND AT SAME TIME QUOTED IT.

8. IN REFTEL, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY ASSEMBLYMAN SHIN HYONG-SIK WAS ERRONEOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS EMEBER OF REVITALIZATION GROUP.

9. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, INTERPELLATION ON KIM CASE WAS MANIPULATED BY GOVT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. GOVT INSPIRATION FOR THE EMOTIONAL ANTI-JAPANESE OUTBURSTS OF DRP AND RG SPEAKERS WIDELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWN IN POLITICAL AND PRESS CIRCLES AND WE HAVE SEEN NO SPONTANEOUS POSITIVE REACTION SO FAR. ALLEGATIONS RE KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ANTI-STATE "ACTIONS" HAVE HOWEVER SPARKED SPECULATION ABOUT GOVT'S PURPOSES IN TRYING TO DO DISCREDIT HIM.

10. WHILE NDP DID NOT MOUNT ALL-OUT ATTACK RE KIM CASE, BOTH KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM SU-HAN INTERPELLATIONS WERE STRONGER THAN WE EXPECTED.
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